

# Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 28

MAY 1978

NUMBER 4



DR. DOUGLAS KNIGHT

## Knight to Address Minister's Convocation

The 1978 Minister's Convocation will be held Monday through Wednesday, May 1-3 at Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL. Sponsored by the Southeast Conference, all conference ministers and spouses are invited to attend.

The principal speaker at this year's Convocation is Dr. Douglas A. Knight, an Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School, who will deliver four lectures addressing the topic "Old Testament Ethics: Antique or Applicable?" An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches, Dr. Knight received his doctorate from the University of Goettingen in West Germany. He is the author of several articles and most recently edited and contributed to a book entitled *Tradition and Theology in the Old Testament*.

In addition to Dr. Knight, Marilyn Breitling, from the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries, will address the Convocation on the subject of "Women in

## Plans in Progress for SEC Annual Meeting

The 1978 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting will be held at Southern Union Junior College, Wadley, AL Friday through Sunday, June 9-11. Addressing the Annual Meeting will be Joseph H. Evans, Secretary of the United Church of Christ, N.Y., N.Y. and Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat for Humanity, Americus, GA.

Concluding at 12:00 noon (CDT) on Sunday, the Annual Meeting will be underway on Friday at 7:30 p.m. with Review Committees under the leadership of Commission Coordinators Rev. Floyd Carmack, Outreach Commission; Ms. Marion Cameron, Christian Education Commission; and Rev. Walter Hall, Church and Ministry Commission.

Other people to see will be Ms. Juanita Velasco, lead consultant for CE:SA, the new Christian education curriculum being introduced to Conference churches, and Rev. George Bennett and the sponsoring committee of the Button Gwinnett UCC, a new church start in Gwinnett County, GA.

Conference youth are invited to participate in the Youth Core, under the capable leadership of Youth Core Trainees and leaders Trudi Sanford and Board for Homeland Ministries staff person Brenda Gorrell.

Registration material is being forwarded to all conference churches. We look forward to seeing you!

## Pentecost: What a Difference

"When the day of Pentecost arrived, all the believers were gathered together in one place . . . They were all filled with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2)

What a difference! Prior to Pentecost the first Christians had been a band of believers who were puzzled about the meaning of recent events and were fearful that their association with Jesus would bring the wrath of the authorities down on them.



## Spotlight: A New Key to Planning

Watch for copies of the 1978-1979 Desk Calendar and Plan Book of the United Church of Christ to arrive at your office in the next few weeks. Watch also for KeyPak: July-December 1978, a brand new resource designed to help your congregation's leaders in their planning.

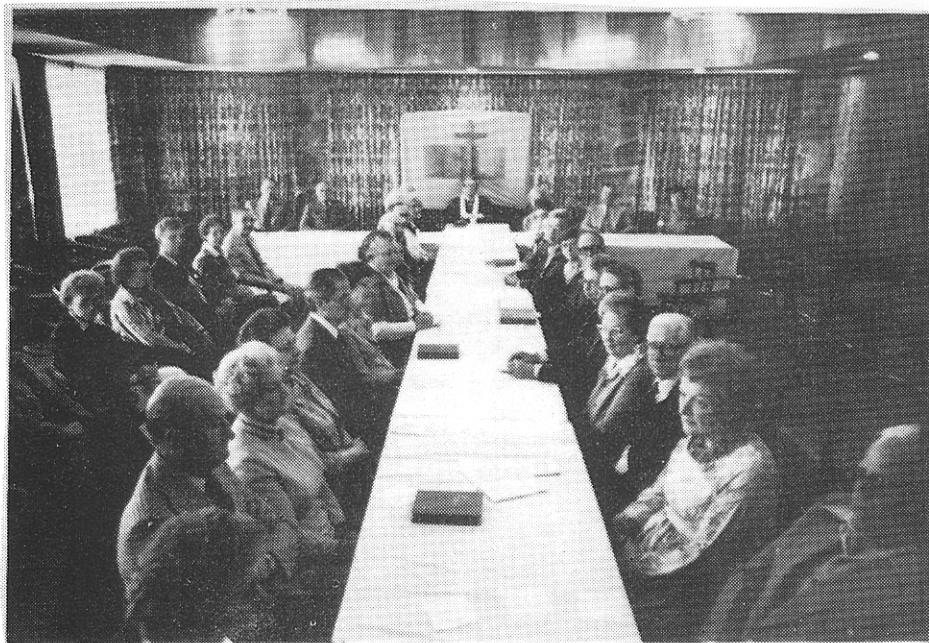
KeyPak, a new publication which replaces the Stewardship Council Spring and Fall Packets, is a set of monthly portfolios filled with helpful, useful samples and ideas for each month of the year, including suggestions for all of the national agencies of the United Church of Christ. KeyPak will be published twice a year, with six monthly portfolios in each issue. To help you more, the samples and ideas in KeyPak will be keyed to the month-by-month suggestions of the Desk Calendar.

The price of the Desk Calendar remains \$2.00 each for copies beyond the one sample copy sent each church. KeyPak is also priced \$2.00 each for copies beyond the sample copy which is sent to each church twice a year. Order extra copies for all local church leaders from:

Stewardship Council  
Literature Distribution Service  
1505 Race Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

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FAIRFIELD GLADE COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Georgia-South Carolina Association

The Georgia-South Carolina Association explored the theme "Between Memory and Hope" in their seventh annual session, October 22, 1977, at the Central Christian Church (Disciples) in Augusta, Georgia.

Each church reported "what our church has done that we feel good about" ranging all of the way from nothing to natives are restless, from harmony to survival, from involvement of people in total program of church to excitement of Youth Empowerment Team.

Special guests and speakers were J.T. Stanley of Greensboro, N.C., former Superintendent of the Convention of the South, Marguerite Davison of Demorest, Ga., a commissioned worker in the former Southeast Convention and Collie Seymour of Belvidere, TN, a former member of the Liberty Church, Bowman, Ga. These three "celebrated their youth" during 1930-1950. They remembered their work among the Churches from Texas to New York, youth camp and conferences, Atlanta Theological Seminary, ice cream parties and folk games (no dancing, please), Piedmont College, Christian Endeavor, Dorchester Center, etc.

Edward and Freda Brown "celebrated their youth", 1950-1970, a period of Race Relations and Civil Rights movements, Desegregation.

Malbro Roberts, Faya Donaldson and Linda Hankins, along with 25 other young people celebrated their youth, 1970-1990, using a dramatic approach to peer into the future and seeking God's Way of Life upon the Earth.

Said Mr. Stanley in his devotion, "When God said, 'Come now, let us reason

together,' He gave us an invitation that lifts us up and makes us know we are somebody. In God's sight, I am Somebody. Value of the human being is at the heart of the Gospel. The business of the Church is to proclaim the Gospel."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 1-3: Ministers and Spouses Convocation, Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, Al.
- May 5: Morgan-Scott Project, Sunbright, Tn.
- May 5: May Fellowship Day
- May 7-14: Christian Family Week
- May 14: Pentecost and Festival of the Christian Home
- May 26: Uplands Executive Committee
- June 4: 100th Anniversary, Liberty Church, Bowman, Ga. Melvin Dollar is the preacher.
- June 9-11: Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ at Southern Union State Junior College, Wadley, Al.
- June 23: Uplands Executive Committee
- Pentecost: Birthday of the Church, popularly called, but the Church had its real beginnings in the congregation of Israel. It is an appropriate time for a special emphasis on support of our Christian World Mission.

## UCC Women's Meeting Announced

At its first gathering in Greenwich, Connecticut, on February 10, the 21 member steering committee for the UCC National Meeting of Women for Leadership Development set the date, place, purpose and goals for a national meeting. January 10-13, 1979, at the Netherland Hilton in Cincinnati, Ohio, UCC women will explore the theme, "Created in God's Image — Women Empowered for Mission." The meeting will be funded as one of the 1978 Family Thank Offering projects empowering women for leadership in church and society.

Chairperson of the national meeting and of the planning team is Helen Barnhill, former chairperson of the UCC Executive Council. The goals of the steering committee will be printed in May A.D. Newscope. Registration will begin Sept. 1. The fee will be \$25.00. For more information write: Susannah B. Rismann, Coordinator, UCC National Meeting of Women for Leadership Development, 2719 Marshall Court, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

## Liberty Church to Observe 100th Anniversary

The Liberty Congregational Church on Thirteenth Forks Road, Rt. 1, Bowman, GA, will observe their 100th Anniversary on Sunday, June 4, 1978. Dr. W.J. Andes, Conference Minister, Southeast Conference, will speak at the Anniversary Service at 10:00 A.M. and Dr. Melvin Dollar of Ontario, Cal. will preach at the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service.

Also participating in the services will be Rev. Collie Seymour, Belvidere, TN, Rev. Raymond Berry, Moberly, S.D., Rev. Millard Sims, Dacula, GA, Dr. Thomas Isbell, Gainesville, GA, and Henry Weaver, Atlanta, GA.

In addition to a basket lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the morning service, singing will be provided by the Pilgrim Quartette of Braselton, GA.

Dr. Dollar will assume the pastorate of Liberty Church June 1st. A graduate of Elon College and Vanderbilt School of Religion, Dr. Dollar has served churches in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and California. While working in Church Extension with the Florida Conference, he organized 29 new churches.

There will be Revival Services each night, Monday through Friday at 7:30 with former pastor, Rev. Henry Abbott, preaching. The public is cordially invited.



## Mini-Camp Slated for Ala-Tenn Youth

A Mini-Camp sponsored by the Alabama-Tennessee Association and offered for youth from grades 7-12, will be held at Camp Dogwood, Soddy, TN, from Friday through Sunday, May 5-7.

The Mini-Camp comes fast on the heels of a Pop-In also sponsored by the Ala-Tenn Association, that was attended by some 40 youth and advisors March 31-April 2 at First E&R, UCC in Nashville. The Pop-In — a fun and fellowship activity — featured an afternoon boat trip on the Cumberland River, swimming and an evening dance contest. The weekend — which was planned and hosted by the youth groups of First E&R and Brookmeade Churches, was thoroughly enjoyed.

The May 5-7 Mini-Camp, the fourth and final Association-wide youth activity for this program year, will feature program leadership from members of the Southeast Conference Youth Core. A special feature of the Mini-Camp for adults and interested youth will be a Saturday afternoon Workshop on Church Camping to be taught by Associate Conference Minister, the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn and his wife, Evelyn.

Planning for the '78-'79 program year will be done by the Ala-Tenn Youth Planning Committee on Saturday, August 19 at Huntsville UCC.

For the '77-'78 program year, recognizing the vast distances covered by the Ala-Tenn Association, events have been scheduled in the following four areas: Huntsville, Ozone (near Knoxville), Nashville and Chattanooga. Some 120 young people have been registered for the events held thus far.

### THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

Second-Class Postage Paid at  
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Publication Number 504480

Published monthly October and  
November; February to July, inclusive;  
bi-monthly August-September and  
December-January, by and for  
the churches of the

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**  
The United Church of Christ

2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30329  
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader  
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 28 May 1978 No. 4

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to  
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359



Officers of the Georgia-South Carolina Association for 1977-79:  
[l-r] James Fields, Egbert Palmer, Dennis Etheridge, Neil Mosley.

## Maundy Thursday Services at Fairfield Glade Church

An inspirational communion service was held on Maundy Thursday. Rev. Marion E. Mansell planned the worship service to include participation by members of the church who read passages from various Bible translations of the old and new Testaments.

The communicants, seated around the 'cross', broke bread, as it was passed from a common loaf and dipped it into a common cup in celebration of the Lord's Supper. The solo, "Were You There", sung by Fred Lansinger and the special hymns selected by Rev. Mansell added much to this meaningful service.

The Fairfield Glade Community Church which held its first service on Sept. 21, 1976 in the Glade Security Building, now meets in the Fireside Room at the Glade Country Club. There is a Bible Study at 9:00 A.M. and the Worship Service at 10:00 A.M. to which all are welcome.

Virginia Werner

## Congregational Library 125th Anniversary

1977-78 marks the 125th Anniversary of the round of activities known institutionally as The Congregational Library.

The Congregational Library has over 225,000 manuscripts, books, pamphlets and periodicals. It has special collections of books and records dealing with Congregational history.

The books of the library may be borrowed by clergy and laity alike, the only cost being the postage for the return of the book to the library.

During its 125th Anniversary, the Congregational Library is seeking to increase both the number of persons and organizations contributing to its support and the number making use of its facilities.

Contributions and/or requests for information may be sent to:

Congregational Library  
14 Beacon Street  
Boston, Mass. 02108

## Convocation. . .

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Church and Society." Also present will be Dr. James Lightbourne, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference, who will share actions and concerns of the United Church General Synod and Executive Council.

An annual event of the Southeast Conference, the Minister's Convocation provides a time not only for continuing education, but for fellowship and relaxation as well. Conference churches are urged to make it possible — both in terms of times and finances — for their pastor to attend.

Contributions and offerings for Convocation scholarships are always welcome and may be forwarded to the Conference office in Atlanta.

## QUITE AN AUXILIARY!

The Auxiliary of the Wharton Nursing Home, part of Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, recently pledged to purchase on behalf of the Nursing Home some \$2,214.00 worth of needed equipment. Some \$893 has already been donated, leaving a balance of \$1,321 which the Auxiliary will raise.

How often do we take groups like the Auxiliary of Wharton Nursing Home — and other auxiliaries, women's groups and men's groups for granted. But how often do these groups "pull us through" with physical and financial aid and assistance!

## From the Old to the New

Rev. F. Van Gorder Parker, pastor of The First Church in Windsor, Conn. wrote the Rev. George Bennett, pastor of the new United Church of Christ being started in Gwinnett County, Ga., March 28, 1978.

Dear George,

Got your "Palm Sunday" report in the mail yesterday. Sounds like you're getting off to an excellent start and finding a good response. Our church will soon be celebrating its 350th anniversary (1980) and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, Congregational Churches in the country. The congregation was organized in Plymouth, England in 1630 and migrated to Dorchester, Mass. and their minister and some of the congregation went on to Windsor. There is even a possibility that a church in Georgia may have later been formed by the group that remained in Dorchester. I'm a little shaky on that sort of thing and am well aware of the dangers of any congregation overemphasizing the past.

At any rate, the thought occurred to me, and I brought it up at one of our board meetings last night: "What about the possibility of this old congregation and your new congregation establishing some kind of a partnership relation?" It might initially only mean our church making a token contribution of one or two hundred dollars. Perhaps some mutual correspondence could develop. It would certainly be good for us, as we look forward to our 350th anniversary, to do something that was forward looking and future oriented. The people I've spoken to here seem enthusiastic about the idea, but before doing anything we need a reading from you. If you feel there might be some mutual benefit and "strengthening in the faith", let me know. We'll be open to you and to the Spirit either way.

However you feel about this particular possibility, I hope you're finding real satisfaction in doing this new thing and that the "meeting of persons who want a church to happen" will soon become a true Christian Community.

As ever,  
Van

## Pentecost . . .

[Continued from Page 1]

Then God's Spirit brought power to them — power to tell the good news about Jesus so that even strangers understood it, power to heal the sick, power to speak God's message with boldness in the face of



MRS. A. A. COULT

## Mrs. A. S. Coult Honored

Mrs. A.A. Coult, charter member of Brookmeade Congregational Church, UCC in Nashville, TN was honored recently by the Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs, of which she is a past president. In addition to serving as a counselor for a junior music club in Nashville and continuing piano classes for young people in her home, Mrs. Coult has served for the past 40 years as National Historian for the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Serving in the same capacity for her church, Mrs. Coult is the Historian and an officer for Brookmeade Church.

persecution, power to share their belongings with each other, power to obey God rather than man, power to become the church.

What a difference! Instead of groping for meaning they grasped a mission. They became Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth.

So can we. Through Our Christian World Mission (OCWM), the mission to which we are committed can continue to take tangible form through . . . food for the hungry, God's Word for the lonely, medical care for the ill and innumerable other expressions of our Christian commitment enacted on our behalf through the instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ.

Let's make a difference this May 14 — Pentecost Sunday — by recommitting our support and ourselves to Our Christian World Mission!

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## Ship with 10,000 Tons of Wheat Sails for Vietnam

NEW YORK, April 2 — A ship carrying 10,000 tons of wheat left the port of Houston today for Vietnam. The wheat, which will help offset a severe food shortage in Vietnam, is a gift sponsored by Church World Service, the international relief and development arm of the National Council of Churches.

The Greek ship, Antiochia, is the first to sail to Vietnam from the U.S. since the war. It will take 35 days to reach Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and will arrive as the Vietnamese mark the third anniversary of the war's end, April 30.

## Dr. Simon Bennett Dies in Arizona

News has been received of the death of the Rev. Dr. Simon A. Bennett, a former resident of Wadley and an instructor at Southern Union College. At the time of his death, he was living with his daughter, Larae Hambenne in Tucson, Ariz.

Dr. Bennett was originally from Ohio. He was graduated from Union Christian College, Merom, Ind., had the AB degree from the University of Illinois, the MA from the University of Chicago, and the honorary DD from Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio. He served churches in Indiana and Ohio.

Dr. Bennett began his teaching career at Union Christian College in 1921. From 1924 to 1932 he served as head of the Department of Religious Education at Elon College in North Carolina. He was a member of the Southern Union faculty during the school year 1932-33. Following this, he served for 23 years as superintendent of the Congregational Christian Churches of Indiana.

Following this term of service, he returned to Wadley. He taught at the college during the winter months and then spent the summers at his original home at South Solon, Ohio. He kept his ministerial standing in the East Alabama Association of the Congregational Christian Churches (United Church of Christ).

Dr. Bennett was 90 years of age. His wife, Rita Storey Bennett of Illinois, had preceded him in death.